

**John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes - Walla Walla, WA**  
**September 6, 2000**

Facilitator: Gay Ernst  
John Day/Snake RAC Members

Group 1  
Terry Drever-Gee, Energy and Minerals - 2002  
Robert Morse, Livestock Grazing - 2003  
Robert Messinger, Commercial Timber - 2002  
Adriane P. Borgias, Trans/Rights-of-Ways - 2002

Group 2  
Mae Jeanette Henning, Archeological/Historical - 2001  
Shirley Muse, Environment - 2001  
Berta Youtie, Conservation - 2002

Group 3  
Jay Carr, State Govt. Employee - 2003  
Michael Farrow, Indian Tribes - 2001  
Michael Hayward, Local Elected Official - 2001  
Timothy Joe Stearns, Public-at-Large - 2002  
John Tanaka, Academia - 2002

*Absent RAC Members*

*Group 2*  
*Manford Isley, Wild Horses & Burros - 2003*  
*Frank McMurray Jr., Dispersed Recreation - 2003*

Guests: Terry Morse, Dan Tippy, Mary Gibson, John Robertson, Alison Beck-Haas, Hugh Barrett, Suzanne Rainville, Dorothy Mason, Bob Mason, Bob Alward, US Senator Gordon H. Smith's Field Representative Richard A. Krikava

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 10:00 A.M.**

Recorder: Peggy Diegan  
Federal Officials

Juan Palma, Designated Fed. Official  
Jeff Blackwood, Umatilla NF  
Earl Rother, Umatilla NF  
Tina Welch, Ochoco NF  
John Scheyer, Wallowa-Whitman NF  
Bonnie Wood, Malheur NF  
Karyn Wood, Wallowa-Whitman NF

*Absent Federal Officials*

Bob Messinger, Chair

**AGENDA/OBJECTIVE REVIEW**

Gay Ernst

Gay reviewed the agenda.

**ROLL CALL, MEMBERSHIPS AND INTRODUCTIONS**      Juan Palma

Juan informed group of his upcoming new job in Lake Tahoe. Replacement as the Designated Federal Official will be announced before he leaves. Juan does not have the list of the new RAC members at this time but hopes to have the list soon.

**PRESCRIBED FIRE/POTENTIAL FOR WILDFIRE**      John Robertson, Umatilla NF

John did a power point presentation on the history of fire management. There is a struggle between agencies on how to control wild fires, and currently there is an interagency coordination effort to standardize policies and procedures. Dry conditions require fires be fought aggressively because of the potential of the fires spreading.

Prescribed burning can help control the fire danger. Firefighter safety, public safety and protection of communities are the top priorities set by a national resource group. Currently there are not enough resources to protect individual structures. Burning windows limit how many controlled burns can be done each year. Agencies are looking at doing larger controlled burns. All eco systems do not lend themselves to fire use. Sometimes there is no middle ground to prescribed fires. Surface fires are easy to control, crowning fires are hard to control.

## **ESA/CONSULTATION PANEL BACKGROUND**

Juan Palma/Jeff Blackwood

Juan—Reason for the panel is that two meetings ago this RAC had a discussion about Endangered Species Act (ESA). The RAC wanted to know how the act works, what is the process, and what is working, and what is not? Results of the Cecil Andrus policy (document done by governors and ex governors of Oregon, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada) will be hand delivered to the next administration by Cecil Andrus.

Jeff—Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) think they deal with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) well. Agencies are trying to blend a high volume of business with minimal risk. Agencies need help with these challenges, to take some positive steps forward and improve the overall situation. Majority of consultation that goes on happens between the four agencies. (FS, BLM, Fish/Wildlife, and National Marine Service).

## **MINUTES APPROVAL (DEC., MAR., MAY)**

Gay Ernst

Mae Jeanett Henning moved and Mike Hayward seconded that the minutes for the December 1999, March 2000, and May 2000 meetings are approved as written. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

## **ESA/CONSULTATION PANEL PRESENTATION**

Alison Beck-Haus, Suzanne  
Rainville, Penny Dunn-Woods

Alison Beck-Haus-US Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal agencies cannot jeopardize any endangered species. Cooperation among the agencies is happening. Take only applies to animals, not plants. We need to work together at the planning level. This is extremely labor intensive. Workloads have increased tremendously. Fish and Wildlife staffing has not changed and the BLM and FS staffing has went down. We all need to work the smartest way with what we have. Also need to seek and ask for adequate resources. There is a big need for additional resources.

Suzanne Rainville-Natural Resources Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Turnover has created problems. Consultation is our business. Level 1(biologists) and level 2 teams (Forest Supervisors on team) allow a place for folks to air differences. The whole purpose of streamlining is to shorten the time line. An analysis was done that looked at steel head and bull trout together. If there are no other listings, agencies could get caught up. Because of the high level of burnout in consultation, agencies need to let their folks get out in the field to help. Currently, there are some large documents that try to cover multi projects. These documents help establish a baseline to determine the effects on the species. Agencies have to have good documentation of what they do. Agencies need to move toward a more programmatic approach to road, recreation, and fire management.

Penny Dunn-Wood Area Manager at Baker BLM. ESA applications are an integral part of our work. Agencies must remember to recover endangered species and not harm them? Tasks need to be done in a timely manner, and documents need to be armored against legal suits. BLM plays an integral part in Forest Service Biological

Assessments (BA). BLM managed land is spotted all around the forest. Agencies need to look at the species and land integration as a whole. BLM and FS are in the throes of a programmatic approach with the weed issue. Folks have concerns that the process is extremely frustrating. Values, visions and goals need clarification by executives. Processes need to make sense for the public to buy into. Do agencies manage risk or not manage risk since values are different and point of comfort not the same for all?

## **ESA/CONSULTATION RAC RECOMMENDATION**

ALL

- Continue and expand crossing between agencies (missions)
- Seek and support requests for resources, ie, people, dollars. "Throw the people power at it."
- Have multi-species/projects cover three-plus-year time periods.
- Get smarter about how we use existing people and dollar resources.
- Give the public more information on process.
- Consider using outside consulting firm to review existing processes and procedures for efficiencies.
- Prepare programmatic documents for some recurring actions like road maintenance, recreation, etc.
- Have the four agency biologists give their "proxy" to one biologist for decision.
- Get recovery plans done.
- Advise Federal Officials to lend people support to regulatory agencies.
- Work harder at getting elected officials to RAC meetings.
- Have agencies develop numbers of what needs are (short term and long term).
- Ask Federal Officials to request more resources for this work based on what they tell us they need.
- Using the Blue Mountain Demo project as a focus, have RAC make recommendations on how to improve consultation process that will help expedite the process (may include delegation of authority between agencies).

Bob Messinger - RAC's task is to advise the BLM and Forest Service and is not chartered to ask for more dollars.

## **OHV STRATEGY**

Bob Alward

The deadline for public comment on the OHV Strategy Plan ended on August 30, 2000. State office has extended the deadline for the RAC to put in input should they so desire. No NEPA process is required. BLM's review will end in mid October. Before the final product is issued to the field, BLM Director Tom Fry and staff will determine if this needs a change in regulations. Any new regulations will need to follow the NEPA process. Bureau will announce to the public the results. Bureau will address motorized or non motorized vehicles and how they can be included in the plan. OHV on or off road travel will be addressed. Open, Closed, or Limited.

Landowners in the State of Oregon have been given the task of enforcing the new state laws pertaining to ATV vehicles. BLM and Forest Service are big landowners and, therefore, the need for this plan. BLM's plan is to not interrupt the state plan, but to augment the plan.

John Tanaka moved and Bob Morse seconded that Juan would draft a letter to the State Director that the RAC would like to review the draft OHV plan and the group would like to be able to comment on the draft plan at that time. Letter done by Monday. Letter was sent out September 11, 2000.

**\*Handout 2 comment form**

**ADJOURN** at 5:00 pm

Bob Messinger

**John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes - Walla Walla, WA  
September 7, 2000**

Facilitator: Gay Ernst  
John Day/Snake RAC Members

Recorder: Peggy Diegan  
Federal Officials

**Group 1**

Adriane P. Borgias, Trans/Rights-of-Ways - 2002  
Terry Drever-Gee, Energy and Minerals - 2002  
Robert Morse, Livestock Grazing - 2003  
Robert Messinger, Commercial Timber - 2002

Juan Palma, Designated Fed. Official  
Jeff Blackwood, Umatilla NF  
Earl Rother, Umatilla NF  
Tina Welch, Ochoco NF  
Karyn Wood, Wallowa-Whitman NF  
Bonnie Wood, Malheur NF

**Group 2**

Mae Jeanette Henning, Archeological/Historical - 2001  
Shirley Muse, Environment - 2001  
Berta Youtie, Conservation - 2002

**Group 3**

Jay Carr, State Govt. Employee - 2003  
Michael Farrow, Indian Tribes - 2001  
Michael Hayward, Local Elected Official - 2001  
Timothy Joe Stearns, Public-at-Large - 2002  
John Tanaka, Academia - 2002

*Absent RAC Members*

*Absent Federal Officials*

*Group 2*

*Manford Isley, Wild Horses & Burros - 2003  
Frank McMurray Jr., Dispersed Recreation - 2003*

Guests: Mary Gibson, Geoff Middough, Bob Rainville, and Dan Tippy

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 7:40 A.M.**

Bob Messinger

**AGENDA/OBJECTIVE REVIEW**

Gay Ernst

**INTERIOR COLUMBIA BASIN ECOSYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT (ICBEMP) UPDATE**

Geoff Middough

Committee is currently looking at the public comments and looking at science consistency. There is a short team (22 folks) working on completing this year. 500 individual comments came in, not just signed form letters. A positive letter from the governor of Oregon was received yesterday in support of the plan. It is hoped that the plan will help in the way we do our consultations (ESA needs to be ok with this) and provide a baseline from which to work. Haven't found a lot in the public comments that will cause any major changes. Some processes may need to occur outside this process. Some of the best terrestrial information available is in this plan. ICBEMP is trying to use the BLM way of dealing with protest. Assumptions is that there will be a Record of Decision (ROD) signed by FS and BLM. Either process appeal can be used. BLM process allows us to work with the four governors on the appeals. RAC will issue a letter of support to use the BLM process for ICBEMP.

Geoff Middough and Juan will draft the letter. Jeff Blackwood will put together a one page brief to inform the RAC of the FS process and the BLM process. Anyone who has concerns of the letter needs to get back to Bob Messinger in the next ten days.

## **JOHN DAY SUBGROUP UPDATE**

Dan Tippy

As of Aug 14, 22 protests were received. Plan uses the common pool allocation process to float the river. Need to get all the bugs worked out first before implementation. Plan against motorized boating. Protest on allowing any grazing in the wild and scenic corridors. Folks in Washington Office (WO) are looking at how to respond to the protests. Sometime in October the director will respond to protests. Then we will proceed to work on the record of decision. Protest go to director and it is his call on what to do about them. The director has the ability to abstain or deliver a decision. Continue to report to the judge sometime in September. ROD will clearly document our compliance with laws as well as our consultations. Had a couple of meetings with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Fish and Wildlife consulted on plan. National Fish and Wildlife wants to wait to review at the draft level.

Juan suggested that we seek others to go on our behalf to help find solutions to conflicts. Helpful to have the RAC write a letter of support on where they stand. Some of the protest letters say that the commercial outfitters did not have sufficient representation on the RAC subgroup. May or may not be an issue.

## **BLUE MOUNTAIN DEMO**

Jeff Blackwood/Bob Rainville

Grant, Union, Wallowa counties are involved. Bob Rainville is the manager of the Blue Mountain Demo Project.\***see handout** This is the first of 12 demo areas nationally. Includes ecosystem restoration and watershed restoration. Attempting to provide a employment base to the communities. Cooperation between agencies has been excellent. Private landowners are also cooperating. Meeting with county commissioners, contractors, etc. A big percentage of government dollars goes to processes. (70%). There is a need for a vegetation database with good information. Strike team coming out from Washington next month to look at our processes. Project is piloting different approaches and looking at more efficient ways to do business to be more effective because new authorities did not come with the demo project. The project has hired folks to help with consultation efforts. Forests have gained funds because of the project. 4-4.8 million dollars between the three forests. Dollars are used for projects, not overhead. Hired two biologists and retained two folks that would have been laid off.

### **RAC Suggestions:**

- Let public know, advertise accomplishments. Use radio, newspaper, chamber of commerce. Put signs up to show the public at your projects sites-explain what we are doing.
- Make this project different by providing a measure to monitor change in biological health.
- Have a goal to enhance the economy through this project.
- The RAC needs to become more involved and be active with monitoring this plan. Assist with the consultation by inter linked authority.
- Opportunity to work together to find solutions.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment.

## JOHN DAY SUBGROUP

Bob Messinger asked RAC to vote on whether the John Day Subgroup will be disbanded and the vote by consensus (thumbs up) was that the John Day Subgroup would be disbanded. Bob Messinger and Dan Tippy will draft a letter and get to Peggy to send out.

## HELLS CANYON SUBGROUP

Shirley Muse made a motion that the RAC continue the Hells Canyon Subgroup with specific instructions. That the RAC restructure the Hells Canyon Subgroup charter and advise the subgroup of changes. Karyn is to give the RAC a specific list of issues(two or three items) that they will review or request further information on, with specific information on time frames, etc. Motion was seconded by John Tanaka. Vote passed by Consensus.

At the next RAC meeting there will be a Hells Canyon Subgroup charter review and RAC membership review. Suggest that at the next RAC meeting a teaching meeting with the Hells Canyon subgroup be included. RAC needs to get input from the subgroup committee on what works and what does not work when we are reviewing the charter. John Tanaka volunteered to go to the next meeting of the Hells Canyon Subgroup and talk about the RAC decision today and what we needed to change the charter.

## CLOSURE ON HELLS CANYON SUBGROUP CONFERENCE CALL- Bob Messinger

Bob presented an overview of the procedure used during the conference call. John Tanaka moved and Jay Carr seconded that we accept in the record the results of the conference call and accept the decisions made during the call. Motion passed.

## FUTURE OF SUBGROUPS

ALL

ICBEMP Subgroup Decision by RAC that the ICBEMP subgroup has only RAC members on it and it can just ride.

Blue Mountain Demo Subgroup (formerly Forest Health Subgroup) will continue. John Tanaka will chair this committee. Members are: Berta Youtie, Terry Drever-Gee, Mae Jeanett Henning, Mike Hayward, and Bob Messinger.

## HELLS CANYON SUBGROUP MEMBERSHIP

Karyn Wood

Six vacancies-five are returning; Landowner is open. John Tanaka moved that we accept the positions that only had one applicant. Seconded by Terry Drever-Gee. Approved Jeff Moore for outfitter-upland. Approved John Williams for State government. The following table shows results of RAC vote to fill vacant positions on the Hells Canyon Subgroup

MOTION - 1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	POSITION	NAME APPROVED
John Tanaka	Terry Drever-Gee	outfitter-upland	Jeff Moore
John Tanaka	Terry Drever-Gee	state government	John Williams
Jay Carr	Terry Drever-Gee	dispersed recreation	Rusty Bentz
Terry Drever-Gee	Mae Jeanett Henning	education/research	Tim Delcurto
Mike Hayward	Jay Carr	fish & wildlife	Lanny Morgan
Adriane Borgias	John Tanaka	landowner	Dixie Jean Taylor
Jay Carr	John Tanaka	outfitter-motorized	Bret Armacost

## OPEN FORUM

ALL

- John Tanaka-see handout.
- Dan Tippy map on wall shows land exchanges by Forest Service, Barron Bail is the new District Manager at BLM in Prineville.
- Jeff Blackwood going in with a proposal to do a regional noxious weed EIS. Tuesday the supervisors made selections on demo projects for noxious weeds.
- Mae Jeanett Henning-there is a Vegetation Management conference Oct 6-7 in Pendleton. Blue Mountain is putting together a board to look at noxious weeds. EIS/consultation with Fish and Wildlife to use more herbsides-Vale BLM doing now.
- Tina Welch-reinventing government-one firewood permit to cover three forests, public can purchase permit in any office. Combined OHV into two positions for the three forests. The three forests are linked together at the top to be more efficient. Two forests are combining under one Forest Supervisor. New BLM DM will also have authorities over the national forest lands. Oct 1 implementation date. Staff officers will have authority across the forests. Looking at other ways that FS can combine with BLM. There will be a presence in Bend and in Prineville.
- Karyn Wood invited the RAC to join with the fire rehabilitation folks to view the rehabilitation efforts first hand. Tim Stearns to email a copy of national Wildlife Structure Base Management.
- Mike Farrow thinks that it would make life easier if the BLM/FS did more combining in the areas East Side Project and the Blue Mountain Demo Area. We need to look at ways to sell our ideas. Program of work need to concentrate on making things measurable.

## NEWS RELEASE

Earle Rother

Disband John Day Subgroup

## NEXT MEETINGS

ALL

The Fall meeting will be November 27 and 28, 2000 in Pendleton, OR.  
Start at 10:00 a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> and end at 3:00 p.m. on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Winter meeting will be on February 12-13, 2001 in Pendleton, OR.

Topics to be covered at the next meeting:

- Program of work
- Hells Canyon Subgroup charter review
- RAC membership review
- Schedule of proposed actions
- Report back on Blue Mountain Demo Area Project
- James Kent report for Central Oregon by Tina Welch
- OHV follow up

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 1:30 p.m.

---

JUAN PALMA                      DATE  
Designated Federal Official

---

BOB MESSINGER                      DATE  
RAC Chair